

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 1407

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU,US
SUBJ: US-GOT CONSULTATIONS, DEFENSE GROUP MEETING, FEBRUARY 22

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1. FOLLOWING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE US-GOT CONSULTATIONS THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 22 (REFTEL), WORKING GROUPS ON ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE MATTERS MET IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY. ON THE TURKISH SIDE THE DEFENSE GROUP WAS CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL HAMIT BATU OF MFA AND INCLUDED LT GENERAL SEDAT GUNERAL, J-5 OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SIENA HEADED THE US TEAM.

2. BATU BEGAN THE SESSION BY NOTING THAT MR NIMETZ HAD EXPLAINED THAT NO CHANGES COULD BE MADE TO THE DCA AND THAT PASSAGE THROUGH CONGRESS WOULD BE DIFFICULT. FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, TURKEY'S DEFENSE POSTURE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN WEAKENED AND BATU ASKED IF THE US INTENDS TO ALLEVIATE THE RESULTING DETERIORIZATION IN TURKEY'S DEFENSE POSTURE. THE DCA, HE SAID, IS NOT ENOUGH. "WHAT ARE YOUR INTENTIONS; WHAT IS FEASIBLE?" IF ANOTHER TURKISH GOVERNMENT WERE IN POWER TODAY, THE QUESTION WOULD BE THE SAME. TUIKISH PUBLIC
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OPINION NEEDS A TANGIBLE EXPRESSION OF US INTEREST IN TURKEY AND "A NEW APPROACH". BATU CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT WHETHER OR NOT THE DCA IS A "BALANCED" DOCUMENT IS ACADEMIC,WHAT THE GOT WANTS TO KNOW IS WHAT KIND OF ADDITIONAL DEFENSE COOPERATION THE US CAN PROVIDE OUTSIDE OF THE DCA.

2. MR SIENA RESPONDED BY EMPHASIZING THAT IN THE US, THE DCA WAS NOT AN INSIGNIFICANT POLITICAL DOCUMENT AND THAT THERE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFICULTY IN MOVING THE DCA THROUGH CONGRESS. WITH RESPECT TO THE LEVELS OF AID IN THE DCA, SIENA SAID THAT THE USG IS AWARE THAT IN THE LONG RUN THE DCA AID MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO RESTORE FULLY TURKISH COMBAT READINESS AND TO ACHIEVE MODERNIZATION. EVEN IF THE DCA HAD GONE INTO EFFECT AFTER SIGNING THERE WOULD STILL BE DIFFICULTIES IN THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO PRESENT INTENTION TO SEEK ADDITIONAL DEFENSE SUPPORT BEYOND THE TERMS OF THE DCAN NOR HAS A DECISION BEEN TAKEN NOT (REPEAT NOT) TO SEEK SUCH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. SIENA SAID THAT FIRST WE MUST GET THE DCA APPROVED AND THEN ASSESS THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES SIENA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESS WAS INCREASINGLY CRITICAL ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF US SPENDING TO DEFEND EUROPE AND HAD EXPRESSED DESIRE TO SEE THE EUROPEANS SPEND MORE FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE. "A STRONG CASE CAN BE MADE FOR TURKEY" BUT SIENA SAID THAT THE GOT SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE GENERAL SENTIMENT IN CONGRESS.

3. BATU SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOT HAD BELIEVED THAT THE US HAD GIVEN SOME THOUGHT TO ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO "REMEDY" TURKEY'S DEFENSE PROBLEMS. WHAT
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THE TURKISH DELEGATION WANTED TO KNOW WAS WHETHER OR NOT THE DCA FIXES THE AMOUNT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR FOUR YEARS.

4. SIENA AGREED THAT AFTER THE DCA IS IN FORCE, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE A CASE FOR CHANGING THE MIX OF GRANT AND FAMS IN ANY GIVEN YEAR OF THE DCAN BUT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE MOOD OF CONGRESS WHICH IN TURN WOULD DEPEND ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS. COL MAJORS (DOD/ISA) NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT EXPANSION OF THE EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES (EDA) PROGRAM WOULD ENTAIL AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE EXCHANGE OF NOES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DCA. HOWEVER, AFTER THE DCA IS PASSED, IF NEW EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES ARE AVAILABLE THEN THOSE COULD BE CONSIDERED AT THAT TIME. MAJORS NOTED THAT WE CANNOT NOW MAKE A DETERMINATION OF WHAT WILL OR WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE AS EXCESS. SIENA ADDED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT ALSO TO UNDERSTAND WHETHER THE GOT WANTS TO ENTER INTO DEFENSE INDUSTRIES TO EARN FOREIGN EXCHANGE OR TO BECOME SELF SUFFICIENT.

5. BATU CONFIRMED THAT SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAS THE

PRIMARY MOTIVATION BUT THAT EVENTUALLY TURKEY WOULD WANT TO SELL SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ITS NATO ALLIES. BATU THEN RETURNED TO HIS FIRST QUESTION ASKING IF THE US INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT THE DCA AND RESTORE THE DEFENSE POSTURE OF TURKEY WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NATO HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED THE AD HOC GROUP FOR AID TO TURKEY AND PORTUGAL BUT THAT "WE CANNOT EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM IT". BATU SAID THAT THE GOVT STILL DOES NOT KNOW IF THE DCA IS THE ONLY ASSISTANCE TURKEY CAN EXPECT FOR FOUR YEARS. "AN ANSWER WOULD FACILITATE OUR THINKING ABOUT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS". BATU AGAIN NOTED THAT TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION HAD LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE CREDIBILITY OF TURKEY'S DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. "SO WE HAVE TO EXPLAIN THAT THE

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DCA IS NOT THE ONLY FORM OF COOPERATION AND THAT OUR RELATIONS HAVE A GREATER CONTEXT".

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6. GENERAL GUNERAL THEN PRESENTED A LIST OF MEASURES NEEDED TO MAKE THE DCA MORE EFFECTIVE:

A. THE PROPORTION OF GRANT AID UNDER THE DCA SHOULD BE INCREASED, AND THE PROPORTION OF FMS DECREASED; THE MIX SHOULD BE CHANGED WITHIN THE OVERALL CEILING.

B. THE BULK OF GRANT AID SHOULD BE GIVEN IN THE

INITIAL YEARS OF THE DCA RATHER THAN BE SPREAD EVENLY OVER FOUR YEARS.

C. TURKEY WANTS CONFIRMATION THAT THE APPROXIMATELY \$86 MILLION IN FRUSTRATED GRANT AID WILL BE DELIVERED AFTER THE DCA IS APPROVED.

D. GRANT AID UP TO DCA LEVELS SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR FY 76, 77 AND 78 ON A RETROACTIVE BASIS IN LINE WITH THEIR INCLUSION IN US LEGISLATION. THIS WOULD COMPENSATE FOR INACTION ON THE DCA.

E. COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED UNDER THE 1962 BILATERAL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SUPPLIED AFTER APPROVAL OF THE DCA; APPROXIMATE VALUE OF THIS EQUIPMENT IS \$38 MILLION.

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F. THE REPAYMENT CONDITIONS OF FMS LOANS SHOULD BE EASED IN VIEW OF TURKEY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION.

G. THE US SHOULD DECREASE THE PRICES OF USED DEFENSE ARTICLES SUPPLIED UNDER GRANT AID OF FMS.

H. SHIPMENTS OF EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES, PARTICULARLY SIMEX, SHOULD BE INCREASED; THESE SIMEX ARTICLES, GIVEN IN AN "AS IS" CONDITION FOR THE COST OF SHIPMENT, ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY INCLUDE SPARE PARTS AND SMALL ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT THAT ARE BADLY NEEDED.

I. AS MUCH MATERIEL AS POSSIBLE (SUPPLIED UNDER GRANT AND FMS) SHOULD BE FROM USG STOCKS; THE LEAD TIMES ARE TOO LONG IF ITEMS ARE ACQUIRED FROM NEW PRODUCTION.

J. THE UPPER LEVEL OF FMS CREDITS SHOULD BE INCREASED; FMS CREDITS FROM COUNTRIES NOT USING THEIR FULL AMOUNTS SHOULD BE DIVERTED TO TURKEY.

K. LEND-LEASE SHOULD BE RESUMED, PARTICULARLY OF SHIPS AND OTHER LARGE ITEMS WHICH PREVIOUSLY WERE LOANED FOR 5 YEARS WITHOUT COST.

L. THE USG SHOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IN TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND DOCUMENTATION (MANUALS, TECH ORDERS, ETC) TO THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES.

M SUPPORT FOR THE TURKISH DEFENSE INDUSTRY.

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7. IN ADDITION THE TURKS NOTED THE FOLLOWING AREAS
OF COOPERATION ARE DESIRABLE:

A. ASSISTANCE FOR TURKISH PRODUCTION OF AMMUNITION;
MAKE PRODUCTION OF AMMUNITION SHOULD BE EXPANDED AND
MODERNIZED SO AS TO FULFILL DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS AND
IN THE FUTURE EXPORT TO NATO ALLIES. TECHNICAL
DRAWINGS, MACHINERY AND PROCESSES ARE REQUIRED FROM
THE US, IN ADDITION TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR EXPANDING
AND UPGRADING PRODUCTION.

B. JOINT VENTURES IN MILITARY ELECTRONICS PRODUCTION
ARE REQUIRED; ASELSAN AND TESTAS WANT TO MANUFACTURE
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT DOMESTICALLY. THESE FIRMS
HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH US DEFENSE CONTRACTORS,
INCLUDING COLLINS RADIO.

C. OFFSHORE PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION AND OTHER
DEFENSE ITEMS FROM TURKEY SHOULD BE RESUMED BY THE US.
IN 1955-56, THE US PURCHASED TURKISH-MANUFACTURED
ARTILLERY AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIED IT TO OTHER NATIONS
AS MILITARY AID.

THE TRKS ALSO ASSERTED THAT TURKEY COULD MAKE
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AS CHEAP OR CHEAPER THAN OTHER
COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF INEXPENSIVE TURKISH LABOR. SUCH
INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION COULD BE IN THE FORM OF JOINT
VENTURES.

8. SIENA AGREED THAT SUCH JOINT VENTURES WERE A
POSSIBILITY BUT THAT COSTS WOULD HAVE TO BE LOW TO
ATTRACT PRIVATE INVESTMENT. HE NOTED THAT
IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FUNDS
TO FUND PROJECTS THAT WOULD COMPETE WITH PRIVATE
AMERICAN FIRMS. WE COULD SUGGEST TO US COMPANIES
THAT THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES IN TURKEY BUT WE CANNOT
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MAKE THEM INVEST THEIR MONEY. SIENA SAID THAT HE
WOULD WANT TO TALK WITH EXPERTS IN
WASHINGTON REGARDING THE COMMERCIAL PROMOTION OF
JOINT VENTURES. WITH RESPECT TO INCREASING GRANT AID,

DECREASING FMS AND FFRONTLOADING GRANT AID, THESE WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENTS TO THE DCA AND WERE THEREFORE INADVISABLE.

9. BATU CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY STATING THAT THE PROBLEMS THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSING WERE VERY URGENT. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT THAT THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT RATIFY THE DCA, THE GOVERNMENT MAY DECIDE THAT THE QUESTION IS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO DO SO. BATU THEN REPEATED HIS EARLIER STATMENT THAT THE MILITARY ELATIONSHIP MUST NOT BE THE ONLY CONTENT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP BUT SHOULD ALSO STRESS COMMON IDEALS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. SIENNA AGREED THAT THE US AND TURKEY SHOULD APPRACH THEIR RELATIONS ON A BROADER BASIS AND THAT IT WAS HEALTHIER TO HAVE OTHER ELEMENTS TO THE RELATIONSHIP THAN ONLY SECURITY COOPERATION.
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